Samurai Drive

Slice of Life Slice of Bliss 2

Shoujo Sense

Volume 2 Chapter 5

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ASUKA COMICS DX

サムライドライブ 2

Samurai Drive
Ryūko Hasumi

湖住ふじこ

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俺たちの心臓は、玉鋼。
生半可じゃあ、折れないぜ？

contents

#5 秋の長雨之回…3
#6 至誠館の長い一日～午前～之回…33
#7 至誠館の長い一日～午後～之回…67
#8 至誠館の長い一日～夜～之回…101
#8.5 [another story] 彼の背之回…135
あとがき…172

#5 秋の長雨之回

Samurai Drive

人物紹介

character profile

A 1st year transfer student at Shisei-kan. Haruma's comrade (self-proclaimed). He's from Shiga, but moved to the capital because of his great admiration for Senshurou. He's living in the school dorms and has a part-time job to pay for his tuition.

An ermine that suddenly took up residence at Shisei-kan one day. Haruma fenced to it and it's now attached to him. (?)

Haruma's classmate. He has a cool and composed personality, but he's in fact really warm-hearted. He's a big fan of Jin's. His admiration for him is almost bordering on love.

Haruma's classmate. People call him the "Glasses Detective". Supposedly there's also a mysterious group called the "Glasses Detective Club"?

The main character, a 1st year at Shisei-kan. He's the best 1st year and is rumored to be the unstoppable swordsman akin to a demon seeking revenge for his master and who eventually came to be known as "Shi-roryasha". However, because he's always sleep-deprived and has social skills worse than catastrophic, he's usually awkward at best. Will he take after Ibuki and learn just a little bit about human kindness...?

Haruma's classmate. He's straightforward, fiery, cries easily and truth be told, he lacks skill. Previously, Haruma also beat him.

A mysterious swordsman who became involved with Haruma. Not much is known about him yet but the few words he's said make him clearly suspicious.

A 2nd year at Shuseikan and Jin's partner. He's reserved, well-mannered and likes tea and plants. He's known as the 2nd best 2nd year. He resolved to dedicate his life to Jin.

A 2nd year at Shuseikan who holds the title of strongest swordsman. Haruma's senior in apprenticeship. His great affection for Haruma feels like a punishment somehow since Haruma totally hates it.

A prodigy of the sword and Haruma's master. Two years ago at only 23, he was cruelly murdered. Because he had been accused of murdering civilians just before his death, he fell from grace after he died.

Seishirou's younger sister, a 14-year-old middle schooler. After her parents and brother's deaths, she resolved to protect alone the dojo they left her.

Haruma's elder brother (27). He is his father's right hand man in a radical Haitou faction and an instigator of the underground Haitou movement. He doesn't look kindly on his brother's admiration for Seishirou.

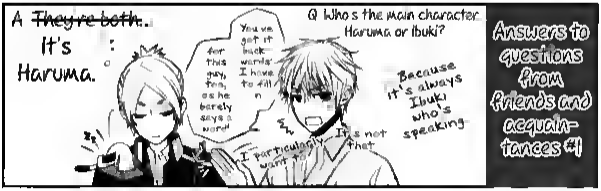
A servant of the Kokonoe family who's fond of Haruma. She likes to dress as a maid as a hobby and is said to be a lady by birth and a courtesan.

物語荒筋 story outline

After the Meiji Restoration, only the samurai were granted a special Haitou privilege. Years have passed since, and it is now the Heisei era. In Shibuya, Tokyo, the son of a noble family and a Haitousha with a special privilege, silently stands in front of Shuseikan, one of the rare schools to teach swordsmanship. His name is Haruma Kokonoe. He joins as a first year and becomes known as a swordsman akin to a demon seeking revenge for the murder of his master. Seishirou Shindou. He drives away anyone who would get close to him. But then Haruma happens to meet by chance a transfer student Ibuki Takahara, and slowly begins to learn the value of friendship. However, Haruma seems to be too clumsy to hold on to more than one "important person" at the same time, and starts to feel that friendship is "interfering with his search for revenge". Then, one day, the katana Seishirou left him as a memento "Kouya" is taken away from him. Getting all fired up, Ibuki and his classmates offer Haruma their help to take it back, as a plain suspicious character, Senshuu Sugatani, makes his appearance...!?

サムライドライブ

SACRIFICE.
HARUMA KOKONOE,
KEEP BURNING BRIGHTLY.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU MAY HAVE TO SACRIFICE.
SOMETHING, HE SAID...


A ~~They're both.~~ It's Haruma.
Q Who's the main character Haruma or Ibuki?
You've got it backwards! I have to fall for this guy, even as he barely says a word!
Because it's always Ibuki who's speaking.
I particularly want...
It's not that.
Answers to questions from friends and acquaintances #1

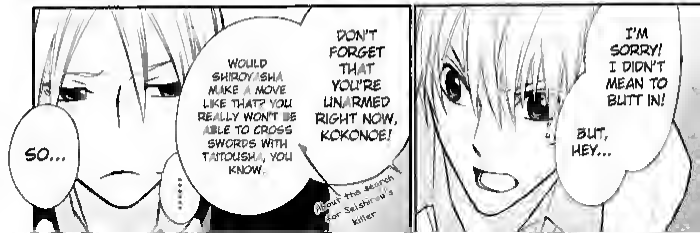
Disinterest in possessions.
No emotional ties.
Indifferent.
??
I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
?
That's kind of sad...
But Haruma Kokonoe really doesn't have any ideal.
...BUT WHAT?
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING... AT ALL...
キュッ
SOMEONE STOLE EVERYTHING FROM ME.
TWO YEARS AGO, ON THAT DAY,

WHY TAKAHARA, JUST NOW...?
Right behind me.
SO, TO ME, THERE'S...
...I'M THE IDIOT
I HAD MY KATANA TAKEN FROM ME.
"A WOLF WITH FILED FANGS"...
SENSHUU SUGATANI...
MAYBE IT'S EXACTLY AS HE SAID.
"TAKE A GOOD LOOK AROUND."
THAT'S BECAUSE OF THAT IDIOT JIN'S RAMBLINGS...
"RIGHT NOW, YOU HAVE THINGS THAT ARE MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU."
NAY.
THAT "SOMETHING" I FELT WITH TAKAHARA AND THE OTHERS...
IT'S WEAKENING ME.
IT COULD BE MY DOWNFALL...

WHAT MATTERS NOW IS SEISHIROU,
AND AVENGING HIS DEATH. NOTHING ELSE.
THIS IS...
NOTHING...
TO ME.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO SPARE
FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN THAT.
I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN.

ANYWAY,
I MOVE ALONE.
A TAITOUSHA'S MEETING.
Right now On a stakeout
I'LL HIDE IN AMBUSH.
EH!
WHERE WILL THEY LEAVE TO...
IS THAT A HIGH-CLASS RESTAURANT? THE AROMA IS SOMETHING ELSE, FOR SURE!

!?
YOU'RE DRENCHED, KOKONOE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE BY YOURSELF?
TAKA-HARA
WHY?
Well, I can pretty much guess what this is about.
AH? DO YOU NEED TO ASK?
WHY, BE-CAUSE WE'RE COMRADES!
We're always together.
Meaning He arbitrarily followed him!
SAY SOME-THING!
Aren't you embar-rassed!?
MY PLAN.
YOU RUINED IT.
HEY


I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO BUTT IN!
BUT, HEY...
DON'T FORGET THAT YOU'RE UNARMED RIGHT NOW, KOKONOE!
WOULD SHIROYASHA MAKE A MOVE LIKE THAT? YOU REALLY WON'T BE ABLE TO CROSS SWORDS WITH TATOUSHA, YOU KNOW.
SO...
Above the sounds for Seishiro's killer

Though I know you like being alone, too.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT
AT TIMES LIKE THESE, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO COUNT ON YOUR FRIENDS.
Don't falter, heart!
DON'T WAVER
NO! NO!
...SO, SAY, WHERE ARE WE, EXACTLY?
MY MIND!
きょろ

I'LL JUST SEE WHAT I CAN DO BY MYSELF AND I'LL BE OKAY.
BIG NAMES OF THE TAITOU FACTION.
CAN'T BE HELPED.
...THEY'RE MEETING IN THERE.
.....
Wants him to go away but is very weak to goodwill.

AH!
AHHH HHHH!?
AND YOU WANT TO AMBUSH THOSE BIG-SHOTS!?
O
THEY'RE IN THERE RIGHT NOW THOSE EXTREMISTS.
OH YEAH, WEREN'T THERE SOME ORDINARY PEOPLE FROM THE HAITOU FACTION WHO WERE KILLED BY EXTREMISTS JUST A WHILE AGO?
?
I'LL JUST ASK THEM DIRECTLY ABOUT SEISHIROU.
I'm sure they know something useful
SOMEONE STOP HIM!
You have to treasure your life more!
You don't
I DON'T CARE ABOUT MAKING EXTREMISTS ANGRY
AND WHAT IF, BY ANY CHANCE, THEY GET ANGRY!?
AND EXTREMISTS TO BOOT!?
HAITOU FACTION'S BIG-SHOTS
!?

Actually, in this era, the "Taitou faction" is in danger of becoming extinct.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS.
BUT COULD THERE BE SOMETHING ELSE BEHIND IT? A RECKLESS MOVE FROM THE EXTREMISTS, MAYBE.
Like fast raising the tension before the explosion
HM? OH, YOU MEAN THAT BIG ONE ABOUT THE SPECIAL TAITOU PRIVILEGE THERE'S A LOT OF OPPOSITION AGAINST?
ABOUT "ALLOWING A SPECIAL TAITOU PRIVILEGE BEFORE 16 YEARS OLD".
EH, AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING EXACTLY?
...IT'S ABOUT THAT BILL, THE MOST RECENT.
Because of them...
who make use of this power to harm mercilessly in order to serve their own interests.
Incidentally, there is a fraction of radical Taitousha
(Descendants of samurai)
Special Taitou privilege
Haruma and the others
People
Yukinari Haruma's father etc.
The Haitou and Taitou factions are also divided here.
THOSE GUYS AREN'T SWORDSMEN AT ALL
AT THIS RATE, THEY'LL JUST END UP DESTROYED EVENTUALLY
...Unfortunately, the world see swordsmen in an unfavourable light
because carrying one means having absolute power.
Even so the people still fear the "katana"

No mercy for evildoers
THEY'RE BAD PEOPLE, SO
I'D TAKE THEM OUT WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.
OH, I SEEoooo!
AS IF, YOU MORON ...!
WHERE DID YOU HEAR SUCH A DANGEROUS PIECE OF INFORMATION, ANYWAY!?
FROM MY FATHER
YOU SPIED ON HIM!?
Now I know I've done it!
SHH!
Has access to a sizable inheritance since the Kokonoes are GOD STARVED family of the Hakuto faction

PLEASE,
HEAR ME OUT!
EXCUSE ME
HEY
IT'S THEM
WAIT, DON'T BE RASH!
I'M GOING
YES, YOUNG LADY?
WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
!?
I CAME TO GIVE YOU THIS
Petition
I'M AGAINST THE SPECIAL TAITOU PRIVILEGE, AS A MEMBER OF THE HAITOU FACTION.

MY LITTLE BROTHER WAS KILLED BY A TAITOUSHA
AFTER THAT MY FATHER JOINED A HAITOU MOVEMENT, AND HIM, TOO...
PLEASE UNDERSTAND!
PLEASE...
I... I BEG OF YOU.
AREN'T YOU SHAKING WITH ANGER BEFORE US NOW?
AND YOU HOLD US ACCOUNTABLE FOR THIS?
I WANT YOU TO THINK ON HOW A KATANA CAN ONLY BRING ABOUT GRIEF.

!
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
THAT SOME SACRIFICES ARE NECESSARY?
OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO MAKE OUR COUNTRY STRONG, AND FOR THAT PURPOSE, WE SHALL RECREATE THE WORLD OF SAMURAI
BY ELIMINATING THE WEAK... THE ROTTEN HAITOU FACTION.
AH!
KOKO-NOE!
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'LL DO.
ISN'T THERE...
ANYTHING...
YOU'RE UN-ARMED!

KUH!
GAH!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU...!

SA...
...FE?
TAKA-
HARA!
COUNT-
ING
COUNT-
ING?
I'M
COUNT-
ING ON
YOU.
EE-
EEEE
EEEE
EEEE-
EEE
HHH
?!

HAA
HAA
Haa
TH—
THANK YOU
VERY MUCH.
……
はきっ
SORRY
EH?
THE UM-BRELL
AH, NO! IT'S OKAY…!
…ARE YOU AL-RIGHT?
YOU'RE NOT HURT?
NO, THANK YOU.
YOU'RE REALLY KIND.
ESPE-CIALLY COM-PARED TO
THE TAITOU-SHA
くっ…

THEY SHOW OFF THEIR KATANA AND ONLY LIVE BY VIOLENCE,
LOOKING DOWN ON PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE POWER.
I DON'T HAVE IT RIGHT NOW.
BUT
I'M ALSO A TAITOUSHA.
...SORRY.
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING? AREN'T YOU ALSO ANTI-TAITOUSHA?!
GET AWAY FROM ME!

YOU CAN'T FOOL ME!
SWORD-SMEN, ALL OF THEM!
NO MATTER THE MASK THEY MAY WEAR, THEY'RE ALL LAUGHING WITH SCORN UNDER-NEATH!
THEY MAY PRETEND TO BE SAINTS WHEN THEY'RE REALLY MURDE-RERS, LIKE SEISHIROU SHINDOU!

ABOUT SEISHIROU.
...DON'T SAY THAT
I KNEW IT!
THOSE EYES
...TH-
AH!
THOSE ARE THE EYES OF A KILLER.
IT'S THE SAME AS THOSE PEOPLE EARLIER...!

...TAKAHARA.
INSTEAD OF BLURTING OUT "I'M A TAITOUSHA", YOU BIG DOPE
YOU KNOW, AT A TIME LIKE THIS YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO LIE

JUST NOW, IT'S TRUE YOU HAD THE EYES OF A SAMURAI.
...
UNYIELDING EYES.

SORRY, I SAW.
Things set to be peacefully in my side.
WELL, YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE TO LIE,
I GUESS, KOKONOE
BUT STILL!

KOKONOE?
Why does she think saved her!?
BUT, THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM THOSE FANATICS!
RIGHT, KOKONOE!?

UWAH, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN HE YIELDS...!
WHY?
SHE TALKED ABOUT SEI-SHI-ROU.
FOR A MO-MENT, ANGER BLINDED ME AND I LOST MYSELF.
..SO THAT SHE'D SAID I LOOKED THE SAME AS THOSE EXTRE-MISTS IS NO WONDER.
ANYONE WOULD GET ANGRY IF SOMEONE FALSELY ACCUSED A PERSON DEAR TO THEM
I KNOW! I KNOW!
!
THAT'S NOT THE SAME!
YOU'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE GUYS WHO'D STOP AT NOTHING TO ACHIEVE THEIR OWN ENDS!
TAKA-HARA...
DID YOU ALREADY FORGET WHAT YOU JUST DID?

AND YOU LEFT IT TO ME TO FIND ANY POSSIBLE CLUES ABOUT SEISHIROU-SAN!
That's true
Worldly-wise gothator
AH!
YOUR PRIORITY BACK THERE WAS TO SAVE A PERSON FROM THOSE EXTREMISTS!
ACTUALLY
AFTER MEETING TAKAHARA, SOMETHING INSIDE OF ME BECAME UNBALANCED
EH? KOKO-NOE?
WHAT... AM I DOING?
THAT WAS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY AND YET I... LEFT IT TO TAKAHARA
No
.. AT SOME POINT, SOMETHING BECAME MORE IMPORTANT THAN DISCLOSING THE TRUTH ABOUT SEISHIROU'S DEATH.
... KOKO-NOE?
I'M SCARED.

NO-THING
AH, EH!? HEY!
AH?
WHY NO-THING?
NO-THING
NO-THING
NO-THING
...NOT GOOD.
NOTHING ELSE MATTERS ASIDE FROM THIS.
I SWORE TO MYSELF I'D CARRY IT OUT AND PUT MY LIFE AT STAKE FOR IT.
TO ME, ASIDE FROM SEISHIROU, THERE'S NO-THING...!
I'LL DEFINITELY FIND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT SEISHIROU MYSELF!
...NO.
"A WOLF WITH FILED FANGS?"
KOKO-NOE!?
IN ORDER TO DO IT...

"KEEP BURNING BRIGHT, NO MATTER WHAT THE SACRIFICE..."
:
"IT CAN'T BE HELPED IF IT'S FOR OUR GOAL!"
IN ORDER TO DO IT...
"NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, CARRY OUT YOUR WILL."
"MY LITTLE BROTHER, MY FATHER, THE TAITOUSHA KILLED THEM...!"
IS THIS REALLY WHAT I MUST DO...?
END

Samurai Drive Character Profile #5

Senshuu Sugatani

16 y.o. – 1st year – 177cm

Characteristic: Has a twisted aesthetic sense.

A twisted character whose existence revolves around beauty. Not that of outward appearances but the inner beauty he senses in the will such as zealousness and desperation. It has nothing to do with good or evil. This is meaningless to him. He's drawn to those who put their heart and soul at stake, while he himself prefers to watch it all with detachment always from above. His pastime is fine arts appreciation. He's currently fascinated by Haruma his #1 favorite. Contrarily to others, he has the ability to see value in things that would be dismissed as worthless. He's a formidable foe. His name is also part of the series that was inspired by my hometown.

By the onsen

Samurai Drive